SEP 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, NPIC

SUBJECT: Technical Evaluation of Photographic Reconnaissance Material

In regard to the proposal in your letter of 6 August, I agree that every effort should be made to obtain meaningful evaluation of the performance of Reconnaissance Systems. Toward this objective, I have already directed that the 6594 Test Squadron (AFCRL) review the original negatives of selected photographic missions for the purpose of measuring and tabulating the certain parameters of photographic quality. It is intended that this data will be used by the project directors for the analysis and evaluation of the various programs. Being responsible for project engineering and management, these individuals are in the best position to analyze and evaluate the overall systems performance. In addition, by relying on these management teams for the analysis of system performance, they are in a position to respond quickly, correcting deficiencies without the delay of communicating detailed reports.

The reconnaissance systems under development are designed to meet specific intelligence requirements as approved by USIB. Within the (S) NSG, every effort is being made to evaluate the performance capability of these systems without actually becoming involved with the extraction of intelligence data. For this reason, an important adjunct to our evaluation techniques could be made if a series of studies were conducted which concern the actual output of intelligence information. For example, reconnaissance systems could be evaluated from the subjective viewpoint with detailed studies of photographic images depicting targets of interest. In contrast to the overall qualitative measurements made by AFCRL, it would be valuable to have studies of the image under various conditions of illumination as it represents specific types of target information.

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The technical details of these and other studies can be prepared by representatives of our staffs as you have suggested. Toward this end, the support of your organization in assisting in the improvement of ~~(S)~~ MAD projects will be greatly appreciated.

JOSEPH V. CHARYK
Under Secretary of the Air Force